

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the divisional application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (original): A system for automatically aligning one end of a passenger loading bridge to an aircraft having a doorway, comprising:

- a transmitter disposed aboard the aircraft for wirelessly transmitting a first electromagnetic signal for use in aligning the one end of the passenger loading bridge to the doorway of the aircraft;

- a transceiver for receiving the first electromagnetic signal transmitted from the transmitter and for providing a second electromagnetic signal relating to the received first electromagnetic signal;

- a processor in electrical communication with the transceiver, for determining a next movement of at least one of the aircraft and the one end of the passenger loading bridge for relatively moving the one end of the passenger loading bridge in a direction toward the doorway of the aircraft, for producing an electrical output signal indicative of the determined next movement and relating to the second electromagnetic signal, and for providing the electrical output signal to the transceiver; and

- a receiver disposed aboard the passenger loading bridge for receiving at least one of the first electromagnetic signal and the second electromagnetic signal and for producing a second electrical output signal relating to the at least one of the first electromagnetic signal and the second electromagnetic signal.

Claim 20 (original): A system according to claim 19, including:

- a second receiver disposed aboard the aircraft for receiving the second electromagnetic signal transmitted from the transceiver and for providing a third electrical output signal relating to the second electromagnetic signal; and

a control unit in electrical communication with the second receiver and with a central computer system of the aircraft, for receiving the third electrical output signal from the second receiver and for controlling the determined next movement of the aircraft based on the third electrical output signal.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A system according to claim 20, comprising:

a bridge controller in operative communication with the receiver, for receiving the second electrical output signal from the [wireless] receiver, and for providing an electrical control signal relating to the second electrical output signal; and

a drive mechanism in electrical communication with the bridge controller, for receiving the electrical control signal and for driving the passenger loading bridge in the determined direction toward the doorway of the aircraft based on the electrical control signal.

Claim 22 (original): A system according to claim 19, comprising:

a bridge controller in operative communication with the receiver, for receiving the second electrical output signal from the receiver, and for providing an electric control signal relating to the second electrical output signal; and

a drive mechanism in electrical communication with the bridge controller, for receiving the electrical control signal and for driving the passenger loading bridge in the determined direction toward the doorway of the aircraft based on the electrical control signal.

Claim 23 (original): A system according to claim 22, comprising:

a display device in electrical communication with the processor, for receiving the electrical output signal from the processor, and for displaying a human intelligible instruction relating to the determined next movement of the aircraft.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A system according to claim 22, including:

a second transmitter disposed aboard the passenger loading bridge and in operative communication with the bridge controller, the second transmitter for wirelessly transmitting a third electromagnetic signal; and

a second transceiver fixedly mounted at a predetermined location that is remote from each one of the transmitter, the second transmitter and the transceiver, the second transceiver for co-operating with the transceiver and at least one of the transmitter and the second transmitter to determine a location of the at least one of the transmitter and the second transmitter.

Claims 25-45 (cancelled)

Claim 46 (new claim) A system according to claim 19, wherein the transmitter comprises a first optical transmitter including a first light source for providing the first electromagnetic signal within a predetermined region of the electromagnetic spectrum within one of the infrared region, the visible region, and the ultraviolet region of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Claim 47 (new claim) A system according to claim 46, wherein the transceiver includes an optical receiver including a detector element for detecting the first electromagnetic signal within the predetermined region of the electromagnetic spectrum and a second optical transmitter including a second light source for providing the second electromagnetic signal within a predetermined region of the electromagnetic spectrum within one of the infrared region, the visible region, and the ultraviolet region of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Claim 48 (new claim) A system according to claim 19, wherein the transmitter comprises a radio-frequency transmitter and wherein the transceiver includes a radio-frequency receiver.